

CLAIMS

1. A safety device, usable in particular with hypodermic needles, and incorporating a trigger mechanism which when activated primes the device to initiate the unsheathing of the needle in use by flexing one or more needle-surrounding legs away from the needle axis; the initial priming and leg-flexing movement being caused by the interaction of an operative portion of the trigger with the or each said leg or with a member connected operatively thereto; characterised by the feature that, when such movement occurs, the trigger end interacts with the leg or the said part connected thereto in a manner which positively latches and retains the two in engagement.
2. Apparatus according to Claim 1 and in which the co-operative latching engagement is automatically released as the user progressively extends the needle to perform an injection; and the trigger then automatically moves out of the way of the latch area so as not to impede the subsequent return of the or each leg to its needle-surrounding closed position when the needle is withdrawn after the injection is completed.
3. Apparatus according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 in which the trigger has a double-curved profile so as to lead a user intuitively to push it down into the leg-needle assembly rather than forward in the general direction of the needle axis.
4. Apparatus according to Claim 3 and in which the material properties of the trigger are such that one region of the curve deforms more than the other as the trigger is pressed into engagement.
5. Apparatus substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated in any appropriate combination of the accompanying drawings.